

House Resolution 1776

By: Representatives Gardner of the 57th, Ehrhart of the 36th, Watson of the 91st, Oliver of the 83rd, Golick of the 34th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the American Red Cross and proclaiming March, 2006, American Red Cross
2 Month in Georgia; inviting its representatives to appear before the House of Representatives;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the essential, humanitarian role of the American Red Cross has never been more
5 relevant than in 2005, a year of unprecedented disasters, from the aftermath of the killer
6 tsunami in Asia and Africa to the deadly hurricanes and flooding that devastated New
7 Orleans and much of our Gulf Coast, affecting millions of people worldwide; and

8 WHEREAS, following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Georgia's Red Cross conducted the
9 largest disaster relief operation in state history and, with the support of caring Georgians,
10 distributed more than \$44 million in financial assistance to 43,000 Gulf Coast families who
11 turned to our state for help. In addition, the Red Cross provided safe lodging for 3,100
12 hurricane evacuees in 22 shelters, served more than 400,000 meals and snacks, and gave
13 health and emotional support to nearly 21,000 people devastated by the hurricanes; and

14 WHEREAS, last year, the American Red Cross also responded to more than 3,100 other
15 disasters in Georgia, ranging from floods and tornadoes to home and apartment fires, and
16 faithfully fulfilled its national and state responsibilities for feeding, clothing, and sheltering
17 disaster victims, providing blood, first aid, health care, and counseling in times of crisis; and

18 WHEREAS, though not a government agency itself, the American Red Cross closely
19 collaborates with Georgia's emergency planning community to prepare for and respond to
20 emergencies of all types and leads the way in helping Georgia's families become safer,
21 healthier, and better prepared to face the unexpected - natural or manmade disasters or the
22 threat of pandemic influenza; and

1 WHEREAS, as part of its humanitarian mission, the American Red Cross provides the only
2 world-wide communications link between service members and their loved ones – 16,300
3 of Georgia’s military families turned to the Red Cross last year to relay news of births,
4 deaths, serious illnesses, and other urgent circumstances. In addition, Georgia’s refugees,
5 who lose touch with loved ones due to changing world conditions, can also turn to the Red
6 Cross for help; and

7 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is saving lives in Georgia every day - last year alone,
8 Red Cross Blood Services collected more than 294,000 pints of blood from Georgia blood
9 donors, who in turn saved more than 884,000 lives through their selfless generosity. Red
10 Cross instructors also trained more than 190,000 of our citizens in how to save lives with first
11 aid, CPR, use of an AED, lifeguarding, water safety, and HIV/AIDS prevention education;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross, celebrating its 125th year in 2006, continues to
14 channel the compassion of countless Georgians who support its life-saving mission with their
15 blood and financial contributions and the nearly 22,000 Red Cross volunteers in Georgia who
16 freely give their time and talent to ease and prevent human suffering.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
18 the members of the body join the President of the United States, the Governor of Georgia,
19 and government officials across the country in proclaiming March, 2006, American Red
20 Cross Month; call upon all citizens to support and honor this organization and recognize its
21 proud heritage of service; and invite its representatives to appear before the House at a date
22 and time to be determined by the Speaker of the House.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House is authorized and directed to
24 transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to representatives of the American Red Cross.